

## Book Notices

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LORNA MARGARET ALLEN, *Thursday's daughter*, New York, Vantage Press, 1974, pp. 306, [no price stated].

A homely and naïve account of the life of missionary work in India during World War I, the author being a nurse and her husband a doctor. It is in the form of letters written home to relations in Canada, and through them one learns a lot about the activities of a missionary and the medical and social problems encountered half a century ago in Central India.

JOSEPH BERTRAND, *L'Académie des Sciences et les Académiciens de 1666 à 1793*, Amsterdam, B. M. Israël, 1969, 8vo, pp. iv, 435, [4 11.], [no price stated].

The first edition was published in 1869 and this is a facsimile reprint, with the addition of a name index. First there is a history of the Académie, founded in 1666, (pp. 1–203) and the remainder is a sequence of accounts of outstanding academicians and their work, divided according to speciality; under 'naturalistes' are included Réamur, Buffon, and Hauy, and elsewhere are Lavoisier, Franklin, Maupertius, D'Alembert, Huyghens, Condorcet, etc. The last chapter deals with the decline and demise of the Académie in 1793.

This has proved to be a useful source-book, and its reappearance a century after its first publication is to be welcomed.

*Personal view. Articles from the British Medical Journal*, London, British Medical Association, 1975, 8vo, pp. xvii, 302, £3.00 (paperback).

Many medical journals carry a light-hearted column, partly perhaps to alleviate somewhat the intense seriousness of the rest of their contents, and partly to provide a rostrum for the literary versatility of the medical profession. Since 1968 the *B.M.J.* has featured 'Personal views', articles of about 1,200 words, ". . . for anybody with something to say and the skill to say it. . . ." One hundred of them are now collected together to provide a remarkably varied anthology, contributed by almost every type of medical man. Information and opinions of great variety abound, and many of them will be of interest to historians of medicine, perhaps more to those of the future who will find the book of value when assessing the medical personnel of 1968 to 1975.

MARTIN KEMP (editor), *Dr. William Hunter at the Royal Academy of Arts*, Glasgow, University of Glasgow Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. 47, illus., £2.50.

Hunter was the first Professor of Anatomy at the Royal Academy, being appointed in 1768, and this monograph presents for the first time an edited version of the preliminary notes for some of the lectures he gave, 1769 to 1722 (pp. 31–47). There is an excellent editorial introduction, in which Hunter's significant, yet neglected, contribution to the Academy is discussed, supported by notes and illustrations. The contents of five lectures, taken from rough notes and drafts, are reconstructed, and in them Hunter not only dealt with anatomical detail, but also with topics such as the state of the fine arts in Britain, the relationship between the imitative arts and Nature, passion in the arts, the study of the motions, etc.

This is an important addition to our knowledge of William Hunter.

### Book Notices

R. A. BUCHANAN and GEORGE WATKINS, *The industrial archaeology of the stationary steam engine*, London, Allen Lane, 1976, 8vo, pp. xiv, 199, illus., £7.50.

There are three sections: 'The steam engine in history'; 'The techniques of steam power'; 'Gazeteer', which lists a selected number of surviving steam engines in Britain, from a total of about 600, giving locations and brief descriptions. Being intended for the layman, technical language is avoided as much as possible, but nevertheless the authors present a scholarly work in the best tradition of professional history of technology. The connexion between the steam engine, static and otherwise, and medicine may seem tenuous but would be a good topic for investigation. Its influence on communications alone with the steam printing press and the railway and marine engine was revolutionary. The influence on medicine of the water-works, textile mill and other engines needs much closer study. Whoever takes up such research will find this book an essential work.

VINCENT BURANELLI, *The wizard from Vienna, Franz Anton Mesmer*, London, Peter Owen, 1976, 8vo, pp. 256, illus., £5.25.

The title of this book indicates the audience to which it is directed, the general reader. It is yet another account of Mesmer and mesmerism, by a professional writer who, apart from this status, seems to have no special accomplishments to fit him for the task. Predictably there is a dramatization and racy style of presentation, with nothing new added to the story, which has been well documented elsewhere. There are many quotations in the text, but unfortunately the author does not reveal their exact origins. He does, however, include a useful annotated bibliography (pp. 239–245), and there is a terminal 'Note on Poe and mesmerism' and a translation of a French burlesque on mesmerism.

For a competent and readable account of this topic, but with too many typographical errors, Mr. Buranelli's book can be recommended. It is possible that it may stimulate others to investigate more thoroughly the many aspects of mesmerism as yet unexplored that the present author acknowledges.

RODNEY NEEDHAM (editor), *Right and left. Essays on dual symbolic classification*, Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press, 1973, 8vo, pp. xxxix, 449, illus., £13.30.

The pioneering work on dual symbolic classification was published in 1909 by the French scholar Robert Hertz (1881–1915), and it is here translated by the editor: 'The pre-eminence of the right hand: a study in religious polarity'. In addition, there are another seventeen essays by a group of renowned scholars, which discuss the problems of preferred laterality and the many significances of left and right, from Ancient Greek to modern African and Indonesian cultures.

Much has been written by neurologists and psychologists on right- and left-handedness, but this is the most comprehensive work dealing with their social anthropological aspects. It is not, however, intended as an encyclopaedia, but more as a stimulus to thought and to further contributions to a fascinating topic. Most of the articles have appeared elsewhere, but some are original and some appear here in English for the first time. Dr. Needham's anthology can be warmly recommended.

### Book Notices

E. H. CORNELIUS and A. J. HARDING RAINS (editors), *Letters from the past. From John Hunter to Edward Jenner*, London, Royal College of Surgeons of England, 1976, 4to, pp. 40, illus., £1.50.

Here, thirty letters are transcribed, each accompanied by a photograph of its opening lines. There are occasional brief annotations, but these are very inadequate, as is the 'Introduction'; no attempt seems to have been made to date those letters that lack one. For ease of future reference each letter should have been numbered, as in a bibliography.

JOHN EKLUND, *The incomplete chymist. Being an essay on the eighteenth century chemist in his laboratory, with a dictionary of obsolete chemical terms of the period*, Washington, D.C., Smithsonian Institution Press, 1975, 4to, pp. 49, illus., [no price stated].

The author deals briefly with the laboratories, equipment and practice of French and British chemists of the period 1690 to 1770. He maintains that the practical aspects of chemistry were just as important at this time as the theoretical, despite the fact that the reverse is often thought to be the case by historians. There is need for a great deal more research on this aspect of eighteenth-century chemistry, and it is Mr. Eklund's hope that others may be induced to tackle it. His list of British terms (pp. 20–45) is of the greatest importance and usefulness, for it renders much easier the perusal of the primary sources.

HELMUT HEINTEL (editor), *Quellen zur Geschichte der Epilepsie*, Berne and Stuttgart, Hans Huber, 1975, 8vo, pp. 152, DM.36.00, (DM.19.00 paperback).

Dr. Heintel has gathered together selected extracts dealing with epilepsy, extending in time from the Codex Hammurabi (c. 1700 B.C.) to 1956 ('Reading epilepsy' of Bickford *et al*). Each selection is briefly introduced and the notes and references are at the end of the book, together with indexes. As is the case with any anthology, one can criticize this book by claiming that there appear to be curious omissions and surprising inclusions. However, on the whole the topic is represented quite fairly.

This collection of primary sources will prove most useful, especially for introducing students to the outstanding contributions to epilepsy in their original form. Taken with Temkin's *The falling sickness*, it will provide excellent coverage of the history of the disease. In fact few other non-infectious disorders have been provided with a better historical literature.

BERNARD HOUGHTON, *Scientific periodicals. Their historical development, characteristics and control*, London, Clive Bingley, 1975, 8vo, pp. 135, illus., £3.75.

The history of the scientific journal is surveyed briefly in the first two chapters (pp. 11–31); there are, however, some unfortunate errors, "Bertholm" for "Bartholin" (p. 17) being one of them. The sections on the technical aspects of the subject are more reliable, and they should be of value to students of librarianship, and to scientists who are interested in the access to the journal literature as well as the articles *per se* they contain. The last chapter, on the growth, obsolescence, citation patterns and scattering of scientific literature is also most helpful.

### Book Notices

HANS HOLBEIN and HANS LÜTZELBURGER, *The dance of death*, Boston, The Cygnet Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. [17 11.], [61 11.], illus., \$11.50.

In 1538 forty-one woodcuts designed by Holbein and cut by Lützelburger were published in the Lyons edition of *The dance of death*. They illustrated the well-known medieval theme, depicting death overtaking various types of individuals, and they proved to be a landmark in Renaissance art and book illustration. Here they are reproduced with accompanying legends in Latin, English and French. There is an excellent introduction to the Holbein cuts and 'A short history of the Dance of Death'.

It will be of interest to the historian of medicine, as well as to the bibliophile and to historians of art and of book production.

*The origins of psychology. A collection of early writings*, 2 vols., New York, Alan R. Liss, 1975, 8vo, pp. 416, 462, illus., D.Fl.115.00.

The easiest way to produce a book is to gather together a few substantial monographs, have them reprinted in facsimile, and bind them in two volumes with title-pages and tables of contents. Admittedly it is useful to have seminal, if such they be, works made readily available in good-quality facsimile, especially if they are scarce. But to present them with no introduction or comment of any kind, to give the anthology the grand title of *Origins* and to ask an outrageously large price is hardly helpful.

There are nine essays in this book, four in German, three in English and two in French. The selection, however, seems odd and one wonders why the writings of Karl Schaffer, P. Jousset, Baron de Richemont, and F. A. von Hartsen have been chosen. Their names do not appear in the usual history of psychology source-books, and as the publishers do not tell us why they were selected we shall never know the reason for their appearance here. Likewise, why include all of David Ferrier's *The localization of cerebral disease* (London, 1878) which deals with a neurophysiological and neurological topic and not with psychology *per se*? Again there is silence!

JUAN RIERA, *Carlos III y los chuetas Mallorquines*, Cuadernos Simancas de Investigaciones históricas, Valladolid, Universidad de Valladolid, 1975, pp. 93, illus., [no price stated].

Until the end of the eighteenth century there existed in Majorca two distinct communities, one of Jews who had been converted to the Christian faith, the other of "old" Christians. Though the convert Jews had professed Christian beliefs for the preceding three centuries, they were still excluded from the universities, prevented from attaining high office, and forbidden to practise even the most menial crafts. This intolerable situation was brought to the notice of Charles III (1759–1788) and in a series of decrees, the last of which was published in 1785, complete equality for all citizens of Majorca was established. Henceforth any signs of discrimination or prejudice were punishable by imprisonment ranging from four to eight years. This study, though apparently of only local interest, has wider implications, particularly for the history of medicine in Spain, and the author is to be commended for having given it his close attention.

### Book Notices

JAMES C. MALIN, *Doctors, devils and the woman. Fort Scott, Kansas 1870–1890*, Lawrence, Kansas, Coronado Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. [viii], 122, \$8.50.

A somewhat confused picture is given here of an inland American city in the 1870s, and all aspects of its activities are recounted. Poor relief, religious groups, lectures available, and entertainment are dealt with, but the largest part of the book describes the library facilities. One of the unusual features of the town was the presence therein of a lady doctor, Sarah C. Hall, who started practice in 1870 and specialized in paediatrics and gynaecology, but also busied herself in social and cultural affairs. There are fewer notes to the text than one would expect and most of them refer to newspapers or to the author's published works.

HAROLD H. MOSAK and BIRDIE MOSAK, *A bibliography for Adlerian psychology*, London, John Wiley, 1975, 4to, pp. xiii, 320, £11.00.

The author, a clinical psychologist and president of the Alfred Adler Institute in Chicago, together with his wife, has over the years collected about 10,000 references to Adler and to his Individual Psychology, including book reviews. They are presented here in alphabetical sequence with a subject index, and they cover the literature from the 1920s to the 1970s. It is claimed that there is an increasing interest in Adlerian psychology, but apparently the Mosaks' source-book is not a bibliography of this topic *per se*: it has been prepared for Adlerians. It will be a most useful tool for them, and it represents a monument to a frightening outpouring.

LUCA USUELLI and SIMONETTA CASTELLANI USUELLI, *Catalogo delle opere di interesse medico-naturalistico della Bibliotheca Statale e Libreria Civica de Cremona*, Milan, Episteme Editrice, 1975, 8vo, pp. xxvi, 347, illus., Lire 15.000.

After a scholarly introduction dealing with the history of the library, the 5,179 items are listed alphabetically by author, with a subject index at the end. Although a high proportion are Italian in origin, other European countries are by no means neglected, and an impressive number of classics in the history of medicine are recorded; for example, Vesalius (1543), Gilbert (1600), Harvey (1628) and Jenner (1798). As an additional bibliographical check-list, mainly for periods before the nineteenth century, this catalogue will be valuable. It is also useful for tracing Italian translations of foreign works.

S. T. BINDOFF and JAMES T. BOULTON (editors), *Research in progress in English and historical studies in the universities of the British Isles*, London, St. James Press, 1971, 8vo, pp. viii, 109, £1.50 (paperback).

A knowledge of research being carried out in his field of interest, and in those related to it, is essential to every scholar. For the historian, therefore, this book is an essential tool. Despite its age it is still of value and should be available to all historians of medicine, science and technology. Pp. 33–92 list historical studies grouped by period, place, and special aspects. Medical history is included in the last of these (pp. 88–89), together with the history of science and of technology. This section, however, is much out of date, because since 1971 there has been a considerable increase in Britain of academic research in the history of medicine.

### Book Notices

BRIAN HARRISON and BARRIE TRINDER, *Drink and sobriety in an early Victorian country town; Banbury 1830–1860*, Supplement 4 of *The English Historical Review*, 1969, 8vo, pp. 72, 69½p.

One of the most important themes of modern British social history is the campaign against public drunkenness. Attention should therefore be drawn to this brief monograph, which provides an excellent and scholarly study of a small facet of the total problem. Similar investigations of temperance movements and reform in other parts of the country are urgently needed and could well be modelled on this work.

### BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review.)

JOHN BERGER and JEAN MOHR, *A fortunate man. The story of a country doctor*, London, Writers' and Readers' Publishing Co-operative, 1976, pp. 168, illus., £1.25 (paperback).

*Bibliography of the history of medicine*, no. 9–1973, Bethesda, Md., National Library of Medicine, 1976, pp. viii, 590, \$7.40.

WERNER FORSSMANN, *Experiments on myself. Memoirs of a surgeon in Germany*, translated by Hilary Davies. [See review in *Medical History*, 1976. 20: 225–226.] This book is now available in Great Britain, published by St. James Press, London, at £4.95.

RUSSELL W. GIBBONS, *Chiropractic history: lost, stolen or strayed*, Davenport, Iowa, Palmer College of Chiropractic Student Council, 1976 [pamphlet].

*Hamdard*, vol. 18, July–December 1975, nos. 7–12, edited by Hakim Mohammed Said, 80p.

*Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, inaugural issue, March 1976, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, quarterly, \$15.00 per annum.

M. PUTSCHER (editor), *Rheinische Splitter und Augenblicke. Dem Internationalen Symposium der Deutschen Ophthalmologischen Gesellschaft (Köln 1976)*, Cologne, Institute of the History of Medicine, 1976, pp. 76, illus., [no price stated].

*Some New Zealand contributions to science and medicine 1769–1903. An exhibition held at the meeting of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians at the University of Auckland, 16 to 19 February 1976*, University of Auckland, 1976, pp. 12, illus. +9 pp. (exhibition catalogue), [no price stated].

JOACHIM STAHNKE, *Anfänge der Hebammen-Ausbildung und der Geburtshilfe in Russland*, Inaugural-dissertation, Freien Universität Berlin, 1975, pp. viii, 324, illus., [no price stated].